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Habash: No to mini-state

HAMBURG, West Germany, Feb. 15 (R). — Leader of the Palestinian Liberation Front George Habash said in an interview released here today that a new wave of hijackings and other reprisals would follow if the idea of a Palestinian mini-state was accepted. In an interview with the magazine Stern, Dr. Habash, head of the Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), rejected the mini-state idea. This compromise proposal for settling the Palestine issue, whereby a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip would coexist with Israel, is reported to be under study by Mr. Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Dr. Habash told Stern that his group — responsible for past hijackings — would not resume such measures but "I personally expect a wave of such actions."

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Crash of Queen Alya's helicopter was not due to any technical defect, commission says

AMMAN (Agencies). — A joint Jordanian-French investigation has concluded that the crash of the helicopter carrying the late Queen Alya was not due to any technical defect, but to a human error.

The statement issued by the Commander-in-Chief of the Armies, Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker, said the French-made Alouette was flying through dense low clouds. It burst into flames after hitting the ground, the statement added.

The report on the crash was prepared by a team of experts from the French Aerospatiale company, makers of the Alouette, in cooperation with Jordanian aviation officials.

The report mentions the presence of a second helicopter accompanying the one carrying the Queen and the late Minister of Health, Dr. Mohammad Al Bashir.

Following is the text of the statement:

Immediately following the tragic accident which caused the death of Her Majesty the late Queen Alya and those accompanying her during the return trip to Amman on board a helicopter, after inspection tour of the Tafleh hospital on Feb. 9, an investigation commission was set up to look into the causes of the accident. The members of the commission are as follows: Brig. Bassam Rish (head of the commission) and Col. Mohammad Taisir (Engineering Corps), Lt.-Col. Mahmoud Jamal (Air Force), Col. Marwan Nouredin (Air Force), Lt.-Col. Mohammad Khreij (Military Justice) and Maj. Hanna Najjar (Air Force).

The commission began its task the same night by going to the site of the accident and placing the wreckage of the helicopter under guard. It rounded up witnesses and took down their testimonies. At the same time, it called the French manufacturing company Aerospatiale, urgently requesting it to send a technical team to participate in the technical investigations. The French team, comprising Mr. Guy Rasciaro and Jean Konch, arrived here the morning of Feb. 11.

Based on the testimonies of the witnesses, the examination of the wreckage of the helicopter by a Jordanian technical Air Force team and the French team and on the conversation between the pilots of the two helicopters, the late Lt.-Col. Badreddin Zaza and First Lt. Samir Shukri recorded by the control tower at Amman Civil Airport, the investigations revealed the following: The two helicopters (nos. 1985 and 1987 — type Alouette 316 C) left Tafleh on their way back to Amman at 17:40 and immediately after their take off they turned on their pilot lights as they were flying in darkness.

The tragic accident was the result of helicopter no. 1985 striking the ground. The crash did not result from any technical defect or failure in the helicopter, as confirmed in the joint Jordanian-French technical report.

The helicopter caught fire when it hit the ground. In addition to the darkness at that time of night, the region was engulfed in low, dense clouds. This caused the two pilots to concentrate on getting out of the clouds, as attested by the recordings of their conversation between 17:57 and 18:16, when the accident took place.

From the study of the angle of collision, it is evident that the helicopter was descending at an angle, which shows that its captain was trying to get clear of the clouds. The conversation between the two pilots shows the anxiety of the flight leader, the late Lt.-Col. Badreddin Zaza, over the other pilot First Lt. Samir Shukri. Lt.-Col. Zaza was trying to locate and determine the exact position, of Lt. Shukri while concentrating on finding his own way out of the dense, low clouds.

As I place this report of the joint Jordanian-French investigation commission before the citizens, I ask God to preserve His justly the Supreme Commander and prolong his life," the statement by the Commander in Chief concluded.

Son of Indira Gandhi emerges as Congress Party nominee

NEW DELHI, Feb. 15 (R). — Sanjay Gandhi, controversial younger son of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was today nominated to stand as a ruling Congress Party candidate in next month's Indian general election.

Mr. Gandhi, 30, who emerged as a major political force after his mother declared a state of emergency in June 1975, has been out of the limelight in recent weeks. But his nomination today shows he is still a force to reckon with in the future.

He will contest a seat in the Delhi constituency of Uttar Pradesh near his mother's home of Raebareilly.

Mr. Gandhi, leader of the Congress Party, was one of the actively few new names to appear on the Congress Party's list of 85 candidates for Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state.

Mr. Gandhi will be opposed by a 35-year-old lawyer, Mr. Vinod Prasad Singh, who is standing as candidate for the position of Janata Party. He is an unknown force.

In the last election in 1971, Congress won 62 per cent of the vote in Amethi.

Mr. Gandhi himself will again contest Raebareilly. Her opponent will be Raj Narain, a Socialist leader who was jailed under the emergency and who also lost 100,000 votes in the last election.

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U.N. commission condemns Israel for torture, exploitation of Arabs under occupation

GENEVA, Feb. 15 (R). — The United Nations Human Rights Commission condemned Israel today for practicing torture and exploitation in occupied Arab territories.

The resolution, condemning both "policies and practices" in the occupied Arab lands, was passed with 23 votes in favour. Six of the commission's member nations abstained. Three — the United States, Canada and Costa Rica — voted against.

The U.S. said the resolution was based on "unproven allegations."

U.S. chief delegate Allard Lowenstein said the text also seemed to question Israel's right to exist by referring to Palestine as part of the occupied Arab territories.

Britain and other West European states on the 32-nation commission abstained in the vote.

Sponsors of the resolution, put forward by eight commission members, said the wording was based on previous U.N. resolutions.

Sharaf returns with message from Sadat

AMMAN (Agencies). — Mr. Abdul Hamid Sharaf, Chief of the Royal Cabinet, returned today with a message from President Anwar Sadat after a two-day visit to Cairo during which he conferred with the Egyptian President and Foreign Minister Ismail Fahmy.

Answering questions on his return, Sharaf told the Jordan News Agency that he went to Cairo with a message from His Majesty King Hussein to President Sadat containing the King's opinion on the coming stage in the Middle East and his ideas for achieving a just peace in the region based on Israeli withdrawal from Arab lands and consideration of the full rights of the Palestinian people.

Jordan and Egypt share the same points of view on these issues and the steps that should be taken to reach the necessary coordination for future cooperation, he stated.

Young: S. African situation fairly well under control

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (R). — The United States Ambassador to the U.N., Mr. Andrew Young, said today that despite appearances from a distance "I think we are fairly well in control of the situation in Southern Africa."

But he told the American Broadcasting Company's Good Morning, America programme that the U.S. should try to pay

Tension eases around Beirut

BEIRUT, Feb. 15 (R). — Tension in Beirut's southwestern districts eased after Syrian troops in the Arab peace force withdrew a number of tanks and artillery pieces from positions around three Palestinian refugee camps.

The peace force threw a ring of steel around the camps — Sabra, Shatila and Bourj Barajneh — after two days of fierce fighting last week between peace-keepers and hard-line Palestinian commandos.

Palestinian commando leaders established urgent contacts with the peace force and the governments of Lebanon, Syria and Egypt after the deployment of armour in Beirut to prevent what the Palestinian news agency Wafa termed a "possible explosion."

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat appealed to Syrian President Hafez Assad for his personal intervention in Lebanon.

Mr. Arafat told President Assad in a cable last night: "I am confident that you will wisely tackle the situation... I appeal to you, especially as you are eager to maintain the process of peace in Lebanon and preserve the Palestinian struggle, to solve the question."

"And if there is any decision to launch any military operation by the Arab League peace force, I appeal to you again... to stop any such decision, to preserve the lives of our people in the camps..." Mr. Arafat added.

Syrian troops in the peace force today also completed their withdrawal from southern Lebanon's Nabatieh area, a move apparently timed to coincide with the start of a Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

The United States acted as go-between in diplomatic contacts involving Lebanon, Syria and Israel after the Israelis protested against the deployment of Arab forces 11 kms from its border.

Eyewitnesses reported today that there were no Syrian units left around Nabatieh, a bustling market town. The troops, part of Lebanon's 30,000-strong Arab League peace force, began pulling back yesterday to positions north, northwest and northeast of Nabatieh.

Fighting later broke out in southern Lebanon just across the Israeli frontier, residents of northern Israeli villages said.

The clashes, involving mortar and automatic weapons fire were between rightwing gunmen on the one side and Lebanese leftists and Palestinians on the other.

The Lebanese government meanwhile expects to turn its attention increasingly to diplomatic efforts.

But Cyprus President Makarios, head of the island's Greek Cypriot community, and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş were less optimistic. They felt amity between the communities was still a long way off.

Mr. Clifford will hold talks in Athens on Feb. 18 and 19 and in Ankara on Feb. 21 and 22.

He will then fly to Cyprus on Feb. 23 and 24, and to Beirut on Feb. 25 and 26.

Mr. Clifford will be accompanied on his trip by Mr. Matthew Nimetz, Counsellor-designate of the State Department, and Mr. Nelson Ledsky, Director of the department's Office of Southern European Affairs.

Vance: Security and survival of Israel are objects of peace

TEL AVIV, Feb. 15 (Agencies). — United States Secretary of State Cyrus Vance arrived in Israel this evening at the start of his six-nation tour of the Middle East and said the U.S. was deeply committed to the security and survival of Israel.

Speaking to reporters at the airport, he said: "I have one simple message, and that is that the United States is deeply committed to the security and survival of Israel and its values. These are the objects of peace."

Mr. Vance, who took office less than a month ago as part of President Carter's new administration, is on his first diplomatic mission as secretary of state.

Mr. Vance was welcomed on his arrival here, on the first stage of his tour which will take him to Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, by Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon.

Mr. Allon told newsmen: "It is a long time since we signed our last agreement with Egypt and it is therefore highly fitting to revive the political momentum. We are not for stagnation. We would like to see movement in the area towards peace."

Questions from the press were not allowed and Mr. Vance was ushered away to the King David hotel in Jerusalem where his predecessor Henry Kissinger frequently stayed in his own attempts to negotiate a Middle East peace settlement.

Only a few hours before Mr. Vance's arrival, a sour note was introduced into U.S.-Israeli relations by a controversy over Israeli oil exploration in the Gulf of Suez. A statement by the State Department said yesterday that the search for oil could complicate Middle East peace efforts.

However, Israeli Radio today broadcast an interview with Mr. Vance, made before he left the States, in which he backed Israel's refusal to allow the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to take part in resumed Geneva peace talks.

"The PLO refuses to recognise the existence of Israel," Mr. Vance said in the radio interview. "It seems to me that the participation of the PLO would be out of the question."

But Mr. Vance's arrival came as a surprise to the ruling Israeli Labour Party faces a crisis following charges of illegal fund-raising made yesterday by Asher Yadin, a leading party personality designated as governor of the National Bank when he was arrested on corruption charges in October.

Following the fund-raising scandal allegations it was by no means certain that the Labour Party will survive elections scheduled for May 17, observers here said.

In Damascus, the Palestinians denounced U.S. policy as "an explosive element" in the Middle East only hours before Mr. Vance arrived in Israel.

Mr. Abdul Mohsen Abu Maizar, official spokesman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, told a news conference: "We shall not buy from Vance or anybody else any bad goods based on support for Zionist aggression and ignoring the existence and rights of the Palestinian people."

We do not believe in the integrity of American policy, we do not believe it represents the genuine interests of the peoples, including the American people."

"American policy will harvest exactly what it has sown in Vietnam and Cambodia," said Mr. Abu Maizar, who flew to Damascus from Cairo last night with PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

In a different television interview screened in Cairo tonight Mr. Vance said that the United States was determined to play an active role in helping to achieve a Middle East peace settlement.

But Mr. Vance said in the interview with Cairo Television recorded in Washington, that he was not carrying specific proposals on his Middle East fact-finding tour.

In Moscow, the Soviet news agency TASS said today the United States had no concrete ideas on settling the Middle East problem and this complicated Secretary of State Vance's trip to the region.

In a dispatch from Washington, the government agency said America had a contradictory position on the Palestinian question and this was the main obstacle to the resumption of the Geneva Middle East peace conference.

While Washington recognised the need for taking into account the interests of the Palestinians, it still refused to recognise the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), their "lawful representative," TASS said.

Assad on 2-day Romania visit

BUCHAREST, Feb. 15 (Agencies). — President Hafez Assad of Syria arrived here today on what the official Romanian Agencepres news agency called "an official two day friendship visit." He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Abdul Halim Khaddam and other members of his government and welcomed by President Nicolae Ceausescu. At a dinner banquet given in his honour by the Romanian president, the Mr. Assad lauded Romania's efforts to bring about a just peace settlement in the Middle East. He severely criticised Israel for rejecting a United Nations contribution to Middle East peace and for rejecting PLO participation at a reconvened Geneva conference. The visit has attracted considerable attention because it is President Assad's second visit to Bucharest within eight months.

Yadlin's confession deals blow to Labour, Rabin

TEL AVIV, Feb. 15 (R). — A courtroom confession that bribery money flowed into the coffers of Israel's ruling Labour Party has dealt both the party and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin a heavy blow.

Israel votes in a general election on May 17, but before then — on Feb. 23 — the Labour Party has a leadership vote, a contest in which Mr. Rabin is challenged by Defence Minister Shimon Peres.

Scandal rocked the Labour Party when a former politician pleaded guilty in a Tel Aviv court yesterday to bribery and tax evasion charges.

Asher Yadin, ex-chief of the Labour Federation sickness insurance fund said he transferred some of the bribe money — payoffs in real estate deals — to the Labour Party illegally before and after Israel's last elections in 1973.

Mr. Yadin pleaded guilty to taking the equivalent of \$30,000 in kickbacks.

The Jerusalem Post commented: "The Labour Party has been dealt a savage blow by one of its own stalwarts, and at the worst possible time in its history... the party owes the public an explanation and perhaps an expiation."

Newspapers today speculated on a series of imminent resignations.

Named as planning to resign were Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz, and Education Minister, Aharon Yadin, a cousin of the man in court. Their aides denied the newspaper reports.

As for Yadin alleged in court that Mr. Rabinowitz and the Pinhas Sapir, former Finance Minister, had pressed him to divert sick fund money to Labour Party funds.

His cousin, the Labour Party secretary general, was also involved in illegal transfers of money, he said.

The Justice Ministry says it will decide whether an inquiry is needed after the court passes sentence on Feb. 23, the day before the Labour Party leadership vote.

The Rabin-Peres contest looked close even before the court allegations.

In another scandal, Housing Minister Avraham Ofri shot himself dead last month, leaving a note denying allegations of irregular financial dealings.

"Now it would be reasonable to suppose that Mr. Peres will win out," wrote the political reporter of the influential Haaretz today.

This was "not because Mr. Rabin was involved in any of the sordid deals, but because party stalwarts will probably decide a clean slate is necessary."

Mr. Rabin also has problems on the economic front, beset by pay strikes and high inflation.

But a Rabin aide today insisted: "The fact that the prime minister has the guts to encourage an independent inquiry instead of a whitewash before a general election will be respected by the Israeli voter."

Spanish police uncovered political saboteurs

MADRID, Feb. 15 (R). — Spanish police said today they had solved the 1975 murders of five policemen as a result of arrests in the past week of alleged members of an extreme leftist group.

The 40 people held are alleged to belong to GRAPO, the October First and Fascist Groups — blamed for the recent kidnapping of two top officials.

With the arrests, police said they had solved the murder of five Madrid policemen in 1975, and also a wave of bombings of monuments and official buildings last year.

The police said they had also solved the disappearance of arms and explosives from military arsenals. They reported that arms and 338 kgs of explosives have been found in the sprints on suspected GRAPO adherents.

Freed from their kidnappers in police raids last Friday were Lt.-Gen. Emilio Villacueva Quilis, President of the Supreme Council of Military Justice, and

Senor Antonio Maria de Oriol y Urquijo, President of the advisory Council of State.

The government today lifted a ban on news about the kidnappings, but continued to prohibit reports in the Spanish press about police inquiries into possible extreme rightwing links with recent political violence.

The partial censorship was imposed six days ago.

It was kept in force today on news of police inquiries into the murder of four Communist lawyers and a party worker in Madrid on Jan. 24.

They were gunned down by 2-men who lined them up against a wall only hours after Gen. Villacueva was kidnapped.

While the far left GRAPO is blamed for the kidnappings, a shadowy ultra-rightwing group called Triple A (Anti-Communist Apostolic Alliance) has claimed responsibility for the murder of the five Communists — and of a 19-year-old student shot during a leftwing demonstration in Madrid on Jan. 23.

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You tell 'em, Cy

One of the more interesting things that U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance will be doing during his Middle East tour this week is trying to resolve the dispute about Israeli oil exploration in the occupied waters of the Gulf of Suez. The matter has been given added dramatic effect -- and diplomatic importance -- by the State Department announcement Monday that the Israeli oil activity in the disputed waters "complicates" the search for peace in the Middle East.

The novel situation has now arisen where the United States has put itself on public record as being opposed to an Israeli act that is, as the State Department reaffirmed Monday, "contrary to international law." The logical assumption is that Mr. Vance will discuss the matter with a view to having Israel conform to international law. In other words, the United States will seek to have Israel obey the law, and Israel has clearly stated that it plans to go ahead with its oil exploration work in the Gulf of Suez. A showdown seems inevitable on the point, and we will watch with keen interest to see whether the Americans can convince the Israelis to obey the law, let alone create an atmosphere more conducive to an Arab-Israeli peace agreement.

The fact is, international law is usually only obeyed when it coincides with the interests of whoever is brought before that law. It carries a certain moral weight, but little else, and Israel has never hesitated to discard international law when it runs counter to its interests. Thus it is quite silly and naive to expect that Mr. Vance can convince Israel to stop its oil exploration in the Gulf of Suez just because the law says it should stop.

What we have here is a situation where American and Israeli interests do not coincide. In the early stages of the Gulf of Suez oil dispute, the Israeli Navy did not hesitate to fire warning shots to drive off American and Egyptian oil drilling rigs, destroy American marker buoys with gunfire or threaten to set a \$60 million American drill rig adrift by machine-gunning its tow line. It would be an interesting exercise for Mr. Vance to look into whether the Israeli bullets fired at American oil installation in the Gulf of Suez were financed by American military grants to Israel. It would also be interesting for Mr. Vance to look into why Israel refuses to recognise oil exploration leases granted to American oil companies in the area.

Never mind the Arab-Israeli conflict. Mr. Vance will get a good idea of the full gall of the Israeli state he has to deal with -- and which his country has sustained -- simply by trying to solve the American-Israeli dispute.

We wish him luck, and offer him our sympathies.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

One of the Jordanian dailies Tuesday commented on the Israeli "Yadlin scandal" and its repercussions on the Middle East peace efforts underway, while the second daily discussed the talks to unify political action between Egypt and Jordan which started in Cairo Monday between the Chief of the Royal Cabinet, Sharif Abdul Hamid Sharaf, and Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mr. Ismail Fahmy.

AL RA'i, under the headline "Israel's Watergate: what after?", says that the Yadlin scandal has placed Israel's Labour Party, one of the cornerstones of Israeli policy, in an embarrassing position and has made it possible for it to face defeat in the coming elections.

We cannot pretend that this affair is an internal problem and of no concern to us as Arabs, the paper says, as any possible change in Israeli political configurations might well have a direct result on the peace efforts. Will there be a strong political front in Israel to decide on peace moves, the paper asks, and will international Zionism be obliged to keep the political situation in Israel vague and thus avoid as long as possible the adoption of decisions on peace settlements?

If Israel had tried to take advantage of the recent troubles in Egypt to put in doubt the capacity of one of the Arab leaders to achieve peace, will it not use its internal situation to put in doubt the "efforts for an impossible peace?", the paper concludes.

AI DUSTOUR, discussing the Jordanian-Egyptian talks aimed at coordinating and strengthening bilateral political action, says that these talks were made possible following the fruitful discussions held between King Hussein and President Sadat in Aswan a few weeks ago. The talks were important, the paper says, as they dealt with the political activity underway in the region and the expected results of the various visits which foreign officials are paying to the region.

No doubt, the paper says, the clarity of vision on an Arab unified strategy which was agreed upon between the two leaders and the coordination and unity of work between Amman, Damascus, and Cairo-Damascus, will enable the Jordanian-Egyptian talks to help more effectively in coordinating unified Arab political action during the coming stage which could be the last opportunity for political action to be able to play any role in the achievement of peace.

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How practical is suggestion of Palestinian mini-state?

By Bernard Debusmann

BEIRUT, Feb. 15, (R). — A Palestinian mini-state alongside Israel, now favoured by Palestinian "moderates", would provide a psychological rather than physical home for the world's estimated 3.5 million Palestinians.

But even if all concerned agreed in principle to set up such a state -- considered unlikely in the near future by Palestinians here -- the practical difficulties would be formidable.

And just as Israel could never absorb all the world's Jews, a rump Palestinian state in territory already densely populated could not accommodate all Palestinians.

But it would make a great psychological difference to Palestinians driven from their homes when the Jewish state was established in 1948. According to Palestinian estimates, the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, which were occupied by Israel in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, now totals about 1.2 million. There are about 500,000 Palestinians living in Israel proper, one million in Jordan, 400,000 in Lebanon and about 200,000 in Syria.

Others are dispersed throughout the Arab World and there are Palestinian communities in Europe, North and South America, an even Australia.

"We are aliens wherever we are," said a Palestinian businessman here. "Those of us who are successful are distrustful, those of us who live in refugee camps are despised, those of us who carry arms are feared."

"We have no home anywhere now... any state of our own would be better than none. It would give us a sense of security -- and it would give us a proper passport."

According to reports from Austria, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has circulated a document saying it is willing to accept an independent state made up of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the tiny enclaves of Hammeh and Ajlun, which are on Jordanian territory, where what used to be Palestine meets Syria and Jordan.

Those in favour of a mini-state envisage the establishment of a corridor linking the West Bank with the Gaza Strip, a small sliver of land on the Mediterranean coast which was administered by Egypt until Israel occupied it in 1967.

The West Bank and the Gaza Strip are about 45 kms. apart as the crow flies.

A road which could serve as a link -- on the pattern of transit routes between West Germany and West Berlin through East Germany -- German -- runs from Hebron through Beersheva to Gaza town.

As far as is known, there have been no concrete proposals as to how such a corridor would be administered.

"At the moment, it seems an exercise in abstract theory," a Palestinian official here said. The future of Jerusalem in a mini-state is equally vague.

From 1948 to 1967, the city was divided into a western part held by Israel and the old city in the east administered by Jordan.

The Israelis overran the old town in the 1967 war and established their own administration over the entire city -- including Al Aqsa Mosque, one of the Moslem world's most sacred shrines.

Under United Nations resolutions, Palestinian refugees were to be given the choice of returning to their homes or receiving compensation for property lost.

A return to such cities as Jaffa, Haifa and Akko is considered out of the question by the Israelis. Who would decide on the value of lost homes there?

Israeli officials sceptical about proposed mini-state

By Bernard Edinger

TEL AVIV, Feb. 15, (R). — Israeli officials are reacting with extreme scepticism to reports that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is moving towards the concept of a mini-Palestinian state living peacefully alongside Israel.

"These moves are regularly denied by the PLO as soon as they are made public. As far as we are concerned, the mini-state suggestions are just a tactic being used by the Palestinians most probably to impress public opinion outside the Arab World," a government official said here.

Last December, when a private group of Israeli peace campaigners said they had met a high-ranking PLO official in Paris and reached agreement on the creation of a mini-Palestinian state, the PLO in Beirut rapidly denied that any such meetings had taken place.

It said the Palestinian nationalist movement had not dropped its goal of a secular state over all of the former British mandate territory of Palestine, which included the present Jewish state.

The PLO goal is contained in the movement's charter, or Covenant, and implies the disappearance of Israel as theocratic state based on the Jewish religion.

But an increasing number of reports from the Arab World say that Palestinian "moderates", including PLO chief Yasser Arafat, envisage the establishment of a Palestinian state on Arab territories captured by Israel in the war of June 1967.

U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim told Israeli leaders here last week that Mr. Arafat implied this to him during a meeting in Beirut.

One of Mr. Arafat's chief aides, Mr. Mohammad Ghoneim, better known as Abu Mahir, rapidly countered from Damascus that the PLO had not dropped its ultimate objective of a secular state for all of Palestine.

Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky Sunday told reporters in Vienna that he believed the PLO had changed its aims. He spoke after being handed a document, purportedly from the PLO, which said the movement was willing to accept a mini-state alongside Israel.

Israeli officials say this is not new since the Palestinian group said last year that it would be ready to establish a state on any portion of Palestinian territory liberated or evacuated by Israel.

"Our position is that as long as the PLO adheres to its Covenant, long as the Covenant exists, the rest is irrelevant," on government official said.

Israel favours the setting of a federation between the occupied territories and Jordan, the framework of an area where Israel would have peace guarantees.

At the moment, there are more questions than answers on such issues.

Analysts in Beirut believe no solution is likely before Palestinians themselves, on a united stand.

A majority in the PLO is understood to be in favour of West Bank and Gaza state, the Reflection Front, one of the commando organisations posing to any peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict, is adamant in its refusal to accept half a loaf.

The rejectionists, led by George Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), consider even the idea of a mini-state a betrayal of the Palestinian cause.

The PFLP will do its utmost to sway Palestinian opinion against it at a meeting in Amman, the PLO's headquarters, of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) -- the Palestinian parliament-in-exile -- set to open in Cairo on Monday.

If you have a feeling there's a world conspiracy afoot... you may be right

By Gwynne Dyer

There was a time, not so long ago, when simple-minded students of history were warned by their betters against the folly of "conspiracy theories" -- the paranoid delusion that all history was a scurriously plotted manipulation by hidden hands. But recent revelations have helped greatly to restore the belief that a lot of what happens is indeed the fault of reds, blacks-white devils-blue meemies under the bed.

In America, there have been the deliberate deceptions that committed the country to the Vietnamese war, the whole Watergate disgrace, and the recent discovery that up to 90 Congressmen were on the payroll of the South Korean secret service. U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) destabilisation programmes destroyed the Chilean and Cambodian governments, with extremely unpleasant consequences, and did their ludicrous best to overthrow Dr. Fidel Castro as well.

In 1971 the Russians conspired with the Ali Sabri faction to overthrow the Egyptian government. In 1974-75 Portugal was so flooded with CIA and KGB operatives that they constituted a definite traffic hazard.

Long before the Angolan civil war broke into the open, the opposing factions were bankrolled, armed and to a considerable extent controlled by the Russian, American, Chinese and South African intelligence services. Hardly a month goes by without some new Libyan-backed plot against an Arab government.

There is unquestionably a lot of it about, and people can be forgiven for believing that nothing is quite what it seems. Whether governments themselves believe it or not, they find the popular willingness to believe quite useful.

Thus Greeks and Greek-Cypriots almost unanimously believe that their recent misfortunes were the result of American manipulation -- if it rains in Greece these days, it's the fault of the CIA -- and the fact that an election on the issue of a purported CIA destabilisation campaign. When Egyptians riot over food prices, the government conveniently blames it on Russian intrigue, and white governments in Southern Africa explain black unemployment as the result solely of Communist agitation.

Two current examples of conspiracy theories show how far the process has gone -- especially since in both cases there probably are quite genuine conspiracies. One is in Spain, the other in the west African republic of Benin (nee Dahomey).

Benin is one of those little countries that pretend to be governed by "Marxist-Leninist Scientific Socialism," but actually are merely tinpot dictatorships dressing up oppression with fancy dogma. Very early one morning last month a DC-8 landed unceremoniously at the airport in Cotonou, the capital, and out tumbled almost 100 armed men, about half of them white.

Firing their weapons in all directions, they marched to within 150 yards of the Presidential Palace. Then they rolled back again, and took off. The government triumphantly announced the repulse of this gang of "mercenaries in the pay of international imperialism," and proceeded to arrest most of the foreigners in sight.

But shortly some curious facts began to emerge. The whole raid was carried out with astonishing casualness -- "they acted as if they didn't have a care in the world," said one foreign diplomat -- and the bloodthirsty henchmen of neo-colonialism even stopped off for drinks on their way back to the airport. The press reported 500 dead, but the grieving government could produce only six dead patriots.

People are a nasty, suspicious lot, and fairly soon they were suggesting that it was all a hoax. In fact, almost everybody out of reach of a Benin jail will say publicly that the whole thing was got up as a means of shoring up the government's prestige at home, and winning it sympathy elsewhere in Africa. And they are most certainly right.

From the ridiculous to the serious. In the past two months a terrorist organisation called GRAPO (The First of October Anti-Fascist Resistance Groups) has been doing its best to sabotage Spain's delicate progress towards democracy. It began on Dec. 11 by kidnapping the President of the Council of State (who is still captive, or perhaps dead), and went on to murder three policemen and kidnap a senior military officer in January. Both hostages were released by police on Feb. 11.

Nevertheless, GRAPO's operations were slickly professional, as is its propaganda, which portrays it as far-left terrorists trying to extort a political amnesty from the government. But in fact they have been holding up the amnesty, and nobody can trace their links with any Spanish political grouping on the left.

At the same time another hitherto unknown organisation calling itself the Apostolic Anticomunist Alliance (AAA), closely modelled on the Argentine rightwing death squads, has been working the other side of the street. They claim responsibility for the unprovoked murder of a leftwing student demonstrator on Jan. 25, and the cold-blooded massacre of five Communist lawyers a couple of days later. Again, there are no apparent links with any Spanish political group.

There is a strong suspicion in Spain that both organisations are fronts for the same group of plotters, who are trying to halt the move towards democracy.

Are they rightwing in case that is their final or are they extreme left trying to prepare the ground for a revolution by summing up a repressive military regime? Are the men who gun the sincere dupes manipulators, or mere professional killers? And if it is foreign backing, as the CIA, the KGB, or dark horse like the Cubans, the sad fact is that noia is not just fashion, it is all too often sensible world where the only justification for a "popular" approval, the old-fashioned power politics operate in disguise behind fious "front" organisations ever more acute.

You can't send a man any more -- not without voking a great outcry, -- but you can still a "revolution". Which perhaps two-thirds of hundred "revolutionary" means in the world, and largely paid for by an some one else's govern-

ment. But speculatively starts there.

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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6:	8:30 Arabic series
6:00 Quran	9:20 Reportage
6:05 Cartoons	Channel 6:
6:30 Agricultural programme	7:30 News in Hebrew
7:00 Lucy show	7:45 Varieties
8:00 News in Arabic	8:30 Documentary
	9:10 The Pallisers
Channel 3:	10:00 News in English
7:30 Sports programme	10:15 Mystery movie

RADIO JORDAN

(On 855 KHZ)	14:45 15 weekly
7:00 Morning melodies	15:00 Concert hour
7:30 News	16:00 Old favourites
7:40 News reports	16:30 Easy listening
8:00 Sign off	17:00 Play of the week
12:00 Pop session	17:30 Pop session
13:00 News summary	18:00 News summary
13:05 Pop session	18:05 Pop session
14:00 News	18:30 Science report
14:10 Radio magazine	19:00 News
14:30 Music made easy	19:10 News report
	19:30 Sign off

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:	Kamel (36295)
Amman:	Yaseeh (24425)
Abdul Aziz Abu Khalaf (63552)	Irbid:
Youssef Smour (63254)	Palatine
Irbid:	Zarqa:
Barather Barakat	Adham
Zarqa:	Jazer
Ghazi Roussan	Tads:
Pharmacies:	Jerusalem (39655)
Amman:	Shmeisani (21523)
Bushmaq (30955)	Neel (44433)
Jabal Hussein (38410)	Mahd (22038)

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:	Departures:
8:20 Dubai (Alitalia)	8:00 Beirut
8:25 Muscat, Doha	8:00 Aqaba
8:45 Karachi, Abu Dhabi	8:45 Beirut (MEA)
9:15 Jeddah	9:05 Rome (Alitalia)
9:50 Aqaba	10:30 Cairo
11:15 Beirut	10:50 Athens, Amsterdam (KLM)
14:15 Athens (GA)	11:00 Vienna, Copenhagen
14:20 Jeddah (SDI)	11:15 Damascus, Aleppo
16:30 Aleppo, Damascus	12:00 London
17:00 Cairo	15:00 Doha, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GA)
17:15 Larnaca (CUY)	15:45 Riyadh, Dhahran (SDI)
17:55 Amsterdam, Brussels, Geneva	18:00 Larnaca (CUY)
19:40 Beirut (MEA)	19:55 Kuwait, Dhahran
19:50 London (BA)	20:00 Baghdad
21:25 Frankfurt, Munich, Damascus (Lufthansa)	20:35 Rawalpindi (BA)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 75111
Civil defence rescue	" 24391-4
Fire headquarters	" 22690
First aid, fire, police	" 19
Jordan Electric Power Co. (emergency)	" 36381-2
Municipal water services (emergency)	" 37111-3
Police headquarters	" 39141
Najdah, roving patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	" 21111, 37777

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41829
British Council	" 36147-3
French Cultural Centre	" 37009
Goethe Institute	" 41983
Soviet Cultural Centre	" 44203
Amman Municipal Library	" 36111

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT	18:00
03:00 The Breakfast Show	Special English. 1
03:00, 04:00, 05:00 and 06:00	Feature: Space
06:30 GMT: News, Regional and Topical Reports; VOA Current News Summary	Man. News Summ
03:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT: An informal presentation of popular music with feature reports and interviews, answers to listeners' questions, Science Digest	Music USA (Stand
17:00 News Roundup, Reports, Actualities, Opinion, Analyses, News Summary, Dateline	News Roundup, Re
	Actualities, Opinion
	Analyses, News Summ
	VOA Magazine
	case, Science, Cul
	Letters
	Special English. 1
	VOA World Repor
	Music USA (Jaz)
	To News ... news
	voices ... corre
	dents' reports
	ground features
	dia comments
	analyses

BBC RADIO

GMT	13:45
05:00 World News; 24 hours	A Jolly Good Show
05:30 Sarah Ward	14:30 Migrants
05:45 The World Today	15:00 Radio Newsreel
06:00 News; Press Review	15:15 Outlook
06:30 Terry Wogan's LP Showcase	16:00 News; Commentary
07:00 News; 24 hours	16:15 Just a Minute
07:30 Sarah Ward	16:45 The World Today
07:45 Report on Religion	17:00 News
08:00 News	17:05 Discovery
08:15 Youth by Joseph Conrad	17:40 Book Choice
08:30 John Peel	17:45 Sports Round-up
08:00 News; Press Review	18:00 News; Radio New
08:30 Financial News	18:30 Top Twenty
08:45 Paperbacks	19:00 Outlook: News
10:00 Talkabout	19:40 Stock Market
10:30 Command Performance	19:45 Dances of Old
11:00 News	20:00 News; 24 hours
11:15 Business and Industry	20:30 David Gell's Musi
11:30 Farming World	21:00 Report on Religio
12:00 Radio Newsreel	21:15 Wales 77
12:15 David Gell's Music	21:30 Composer and In
12:45 Sports Round-up	22:00 News; The World
13:00 News; 24 hours	22:25 Financial News
13:30 World Radio Club	22:45 Sports Round-up
	23:00 News; Communi

مركز الصحافة

Gerald Ford sends condolences to King

AMMAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a cable of condolence on the death of the late Queen Alia.

EXPLOSIVE DEVICE SET OFF IN HEBRON

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R). — A small explosive device was set off Monday near the entrance to the Ibrahim Mosque in Hebron, sources said. There were no casualties and damage was minimal, the sources added.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir,
With reference to the article "The Pakistan Peoples' Party" in the 11 issue of the Jordan Times, I wish to point out some inaccuracies in some of the statements made by the author. The Pakistan Peoples' Party is not "almost exclusively" a party of the Jordanians. On the contrary, it is a truly national character party with membership in all four provinces of the country. This is obvious from the applications received for National Assembly tickets and party nominations in all the provinces. Further, the National Awami Party has been banned not

because it is, as the author implies, the political voice of the non-Punjabi people of North-West Frontier and Baluchistan, because the party was indulging in anti-state activities. There can be no better proof of this fact than the decision by the government to make a reference to the Supreme Court of Pakistan so that its own decision be judged on its merits. Moreover, there is no insurgency of any level in Baluchistan. Instead, along with the people the government is busy implementing development programmes for the uplift of the area. -- N.H. Ansari

Public security use of computer discussed at RSS

AMMAN (JNA). — The possibility of the public security directorate making use of Royal Scientific Society (RSS) experience and its modern equipment was discussed at a meeting Tuesday at the RSS attended by Maj-Gen. Ghazi Arabiyat, Director of Public Security, Dr. Albert Butros, the RSS Director General, and a number of specialised officials and public security officers.

Stress was put in particular on the use of the RSS computer at the public security directorate and frontier outposts to ensure better services for incoming and outgoing travellers.

During the meeting it was agreed to form a committee comprising public security and RSS representatives to continue coordination and to study the use of RSS equipment in the public security directorate and training of the latter's personnel in its use.



Public Security head Ghazi Arabiyat (right) listens intently to the proceedings of a meeting Tuesday aimed at increasing cooperation between the Royal Scientific Society and his directorate. (JNA photo).

Minister calls for new educational ideas

AMMAN (JNA). — The Minister of Education, Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, has stressed the importance of changing educational ideas so as to put more emphasis on meaning and spirit and to concentrate more on implanting values and sound trends, thus changing positively the students' general conduct.

Dr. Al Majali, who was speaking at a meeting of headmasters of secondary and preparatory government and private schools in the Amman Governorate at Sukaina Bint Al Hussein secondary school Tuesday, said that such a procedure would require a review of the education system, curricula and textbooks for the benefit of students and teachers alike. He stressed that His Majesty King Hussein and

his Government are seeking to improve the lot of school teachers at the earliest possible time and in accordance with available material resources.

Delegation from Hebron visits Amman

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar presented a fire engine to the Hebron municipality from the Civil Defence Directorate when he met a municipal delegation from that town, currently on a visit to Jordan.

Both the minister and the delegation stressed the historical and nationalist ties binding the East and West Banks of Jordan. The delegation expressed its thanks to His Majesty King Hussein and his Government for Jordan's noble stands and continuing support for the people of the occupied West Bank.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	563.0	569.0
U.S. dollar	331.0	333.0
German mark	138.7	139.1
French franc	66.7	67.0
Swiss franc	132.7	133.1
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.6	37.8
Saudi riyal	94.6	94.9
Lebanese pound	109.0	110.0
Syrian pound	81.9	82.2
Iraqi dinar	943.0	948.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,153	1,158
Egyptian pound	470.0	478.0
Libyan dinar	790.0	805.0
UAE dirham	85.0	85.3

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Casing work underway before Talal Dam filled

AMMAN (JNA). — Work has begun on the King Talal Dam to case its reservoir in preparation for initial pumping of water at the beginning of March. The dam's water level should initially reach 145 metres and

finally 169 metres above sea level.

The Director General of the Tributaries Corporation, Mr. Zafer Al Budeiri, said the amount of initial water storage space would largely depend on flood water from side valleys and streams.

King Talal Dam, whose cost will total JD 11.5 million, will ensure irrigation on a regular basis for 60,000 dunums of land in the Jordan Valley. It will also supply the Amman district with water. The dam's storage capacity of 56 million cubic metres will also be used to generate power in the future.

A tourist area will be set up around the 6.5 km long reservoir.

New water system completed in Amman

AMMAN (JNA). — Work on the new water system in the Shmeisani, Nuzha, Jabal Nazzal and Jabal Al Nasr areas in Amman has been completed and the network is being connected to houses in these areas by means of extension pipes, an informed source in the Water and Sewage Authority said Tuesday.

The source said that arrangements are being prepared to ensure enough water for all of Amman's districts during the coming summer by means of other new water systems.

Improvement of tourist services discussed

AMMAN (JNA). — The future of tourism in Jordan in the light of an expected boom in this field was the subject of discussion at a meeting chaired by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Ghaleb Barakat Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the preparatory committee for the third conference of Arab ministers of tourism ended its meeting in Cairo Tuesday.

The meeting was attended by the director general of tourism, the chairman of Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines, and other in the field of tourism and hotel management.

A spokesman for the Arab Tourist Union said the committee had studied the working papers to be submitted to the ministers when they meet in Baghdad on March 26.



Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Ghaleb Barakat Tuesday presides over a meeting on the future of tourism in Jordan. To his right is Alia Chairman Ali Ghandour. (JNA photo).

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Rubber producers band together as demand increases

The fourth in the series of preliminary talks on a new deal in commodities recently took place on rubber. It was the most promising of the four, perhaps because the rubber industry talks from strength since synthetics were knocked by increased oil prices. But this does not mean any progress on the wider front -- the UNCTAD proposals for a common commodities fund.

By Roy Lashley

GENEVA (Gemin) — The negotiating session in Geneva between rubber producers and consumers ended on a much more positive and constructive note than the previous three commodity negotiations on copper, hard fibres and jute.

After a week of pragmatic discussions a resolution was adopted that "measures designed to reduce excessive price volatility in the international rubber market and to achieve

stable conditions at price levels which are remunerative and just to producers and equitable to consumers would be in the interests of both parties."

This carefully worded sentence indicates a far greater willingness on the part of consumers to consider an international agreement. The present strength of natural rubber against synthetic substitutes, for both price and technical reasons, and a limited, well-prepared technical position from producers were clearly instrumen-

tal in producing a more constructive dialogue between producers and consumers.

All natural rubber comes from developing countries: most from a group of countries in Southeast Asia. Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand provide nearly 90 per cent of world exports, with only Liberia competing to any significant extent.

While rubber production does not dominate the economy of any one country -- at its highest it represents a third of Malaysia's export earnings -- the rural nature of production and the geographical proximity of the producing countries make it a vital money-earner to many of the 200 millions living in the region of Southeast Asia.

For the moment the future is looking brighter for natural rubber producers. The oil price rises of 1973 adversely affected the competitiveness of synthetic substitutes. Ever since, there has been noticeably more upward bounce in the natural rubber market.

During the sixties, producers had experienced the gradual erosion of their markets so familiar to other primary

commodity producers. By 1973 synthetic rubber commanded some two-thirds of total rubber consumption, and the real price of natural rubber (taking account of inflation) had dropped by half from its 1963 level.

In 1973, however, OPEC's action on oil prices resulted in a jump in the price of rubber's synthetic substitutes. For example, one common synthetic, SER 1500, rose from a 1972 price of £175 a tonne to £330 a tonne by mid-1974.

With the natural produce selling at around £300. A tonne, rubber-producing countries found their produce in demand again. During the next two years natural rubber clawed back some of the ground it had lost over the previous ten.

Today natural and synthetic rubber are in a more delicate price balance. The recent oil price rise was good news for natural rubber producers. While oil prices remain high, through Western demand or OPEC policy, and while synthetics remain oil-based, natural rubber can expect to maintain its markets and its price. Projections by Malaysia's Rubber Research Institute show a rising

real price up to 1978-9.

But natural rubber has also suffered from a general drop in demand for rubber-based products. The year 1974-5 saw a general industrial recession that led to a substantial drop in export volume. As earnings fell with demand so did price and much of the potential gains from 1973 wiped out.

Like many primary products, demand for rubber is geared to industrial production in the West. In this case it is the motor car that sells rubber. Three-quarters of the rubber sold to the major Western importing countries is used in the production of tyres and tyre products.

With car sales beginning to show an upward curve in many countries, optimists are expecting a 15 per cent rise in rubber consumption in 1977.

Natural rubber producers are now concerned to maintain their advantage. Malaysia, in particular, has ploughed back its revenue from rubber into research and development. Over the years improved production methods have raised yields from an average of 560 kgs a hectare in the 1920s to today's staggering 1,200 kgs in some Malaysian estates. Experiments suggest a possible yield of 3,360 kgs. With shorter maturity periods before the trees can be tapped, producers are hoping to improve the flow and regularity of supply.

Supply management is not the whole battle. Demand for natural rubber is sensitive to its quality, and one more so than in the tyre industry. Naturally all types of rubber, whether natural or synthetic, with radials and truck tyres, for example, taking a higher proportion of the natural product.

By improving the quality, and in particular, by keeping it more standardised, producers are hoping to make their natural product more appealing to manufacturers.

Backed-up with a number of joint marketing ventures, such as Malaysia has agreed with Dunlop and Firestone, these new advancements should ensure that natural rubber at least maintains its share of the market.

But the experience of 1974-5 has convinced the majority of producers of the need for additional market regulation measures. With a possible glut of rubber from 1982 coming after possible shortages in 1978-9, producers are anxious to gear supply more neatly to demand.

At a meeting in Jakarta last November, the major Asian producers set up an International Rubber Council. At that meeting the need for a buffer stock, when present market conditions change, to maintain price by absorbing the worst of market fluctuations was also agreed.

Although most estimates fix on a stock of some 450,000-500,000 tonnes as the most appropriate size, producing countries could only find sufficient finance for a stock of 100,000 tonnes.

The talks in Geneva were important because the meeting was presented with detailed technical proposals from a position of market strength. Producers presented a united front, and in a major concession consuming countries saw the producers' proposals drawn up in Jakarta as an important basis for serious consideration of broader international arrangements on natural rubber.

This could indicate a willingness on the part of consumers to enter an agreement on rubber, and one in which finance for a larger buffer stock would be available. However, while the meeting represents progress for rubber, it does not necessarily indicate a similar advance for UNCTAD's wider integrated programme, or for its common fund.

Consuming countries were careful to make no statement that would prompt their position on the common fund. As a result more concrete moves on rubber must wait until this wider battle has been resolved. The next rubber meeting is scheduled for April/May. Some optimists hope for an agreement by 1978.

Vast solar sails promise to unravel mysteries of solar system

PASADENA, California (GSM). — A vessel driven across the trackless void of space by vast silver sails filled with light -- this is the science fiction dream that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has decided should become reality.

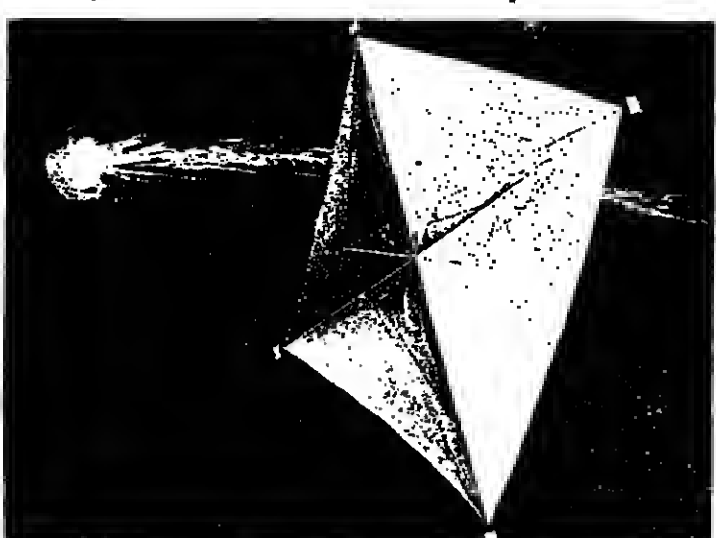
In the waning days of last year, space agency officials earmarked \$3.2 million to begin designing, developing and building a prototype solar sail. If all goes well, one of the very first of these cosmic clipper will rendezvous with Halley's Comet on its next swing into the inner solar system in 1986.

If it works the way designers hope, the solar sail will become a particularly elegant form of interplanetary shuttle, greatly enhancing mankind's ability to explore the solar system.

"It is the most exciting thing to come along in 15 years," says Bill Lyman of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), an engineer getting deeply involved in solar sail design.

The end product will be awe-inspiring, but the basic idea is simple. Take about 0.4 sq. km. of polymer film one-thousandth of an inch thick. Coat it with reflective aluminium a few atoms thick. Hang this on a rigid frame in outer space and the pressure of the sunlight that reflects off its surface pushes it the way the wind does a conventional sail.

Tilting at various angles to the sun allows the sail to



Solar sail buoyed by reflected light in 1986 rendezvous with Halley's Comet.

"jack" in towards the centre of the solar system or "run" out to Jupiter, Neptune, Saturn. It would do this without needing any fuel.

"The beautiful thing about the sail is that it is so simple," exclaims Lou Friedman, the programme leader. That is not to say, however, that sail-making -- space-style -- is a breeze. One of the biggest problems is "deployment", Mr. Friedman explains.

The engineers must figure out how to fold this gigantic sail into a cylinder four metres across and 13 metres long. It must fit inside the cargo bay of the space shuttle.

Then spars and reflective film must automatically unfurl into a shimmering silver square almost a kilometre on a side.

To do this, they have worked out a way to pleat the extremely thin polymer and accordion-fold it into a canister. The 1,200-metre spars are to be made of a lattice-work of thin-walled titanium tubing, which they literally wind down into a spiral only 4 metres long.

Besides the square sail, JPL scientists are studying another concept. This is a giant pinwheel called a "helio-gyro", consisting of 12, fibre-reinforced "blades" five kilomet-

res long and nine metres wide. The entire craft would spin and centrifugal force would keep the blades extended.

This design allows the material to be rolled instead of folded, so deployment would be no problem, explains Jerry Wright, the scientist whose research established the feasibility of the solar sail in 1975.

However, there is some uncertainty about how these long ribbons of ultra-light material will act. The construction of the blades is complicated, also, because of the reinforcement needed, he says.

In general, the square sail has more smaller problems to be worked out while the helio-gyro has a few big ones that must be solved, the experts say.

The helio-gyro would steer a little like a helicopter, twisting its blades at different angles relative to the sun. But the best method for controlling the square sail has not yet been determined.

One concept puts four smaller sails, which move independently, at each corner. Another would reef and unreef various parts of the sail. A third is the "teammate" approach, in which the sail is shifted by shifting heavy weights.

Both concepts share the problem of perfecting the right type of sail cloth. It must be thin, strong, heat-resistant, and not too expensive. The material favoured at the moment is a polymer called Kapton.

According to Dr. Wright, this material should last a few years at least -- long enough to complete the contemplated missions. "We are hoping that it will turn brittle, but hold together something like the mantle of a gas or kerosene light. If so, a sail could have a lifetime of 10 to 20 years," says the scientist.

No one is ready yet to say how much a solar sail will cost. Scenarists, like the developers of the competitive ion drive systems, argue that sails are bound to have an exorbitant price tag simply because they need so much material.

Engraved on the tombstone of Konstantin Tsiolkovski, the Soviet scientist who first suggested the solar sail concept, are his prophetic words:

"Man will not always stay on earth; the pursuit of life and of light and space will lead him to penetrate the bounds of the atmosphere, timidly at first, but in the end to conquer the whole of solar spaces."

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN AMMAN WATER AND SEWERAGE AUTHORITY (AWSA)

INVITATION FOR CONSULTING SERVICES FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY AND FINAL DESIGN FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ABDOUN EARTH-FILL DAM IN AMMAN AREA.

The Amman Water and Sewerage Authority (AWSA) intends to retain the service of an internationally qualified and experienced consulting firm to prepare, in association with a qualified Jordanian consulting firm, feasibility study and final design for the construction of Abdoun Dam in Amman Area according to the terms of reference which can be obtained from the AWSA office in Amman.

Firms interested in undertaking this work are hereby requested to submit their proposals in three separate sealed envelopes, clearly numbered No. 1, No. 2, No. 3.

These envelopes shall contain the following:

- Envelope 1: Pre-qualification information giving details of the firm and its experience in the fields relating to the project.
- Envelope 2: Technical proposal based on the terms of reference, including schedule of work and staff.
- Envelope 3: Fees and basis of its calculation for each item of the project.

All envelopes should be numbered and marked:

"FEASIBILITY STUDY AND FINAL DESIGN OF ABDOUN DAM".

Envelopes should be addressed to:

The General Manager, Amman Water & Sewerage Authority,

P.O. Box: 2412,

AMMAN - JORDAN.

Applications must arrive before 12:00 noon, Saturday 26th March, 1977

Discovering the wonders of an icy, underwater world...

By David F. Salisbury

The Christian Science Monitor News Service

MCMURDO BASE, ANTARCTICA -- "Fishing's good," says Art Devries, squinting down into the circle of icy blue water filling the hole in the floor of his fish shack.

Dr. Devries, Associate Professor at the University of Illinois, is no ordinary fisherman. And the fish he catches are no ordinary fish.

His five-foot-wide fishing hole is bored through 12 feet of sea ice a mile or two off Ross Island here in Antarctica. And his work is part of U.S. efforts to understand the life that populates the fringes of this frozen continent so that increasing human activity in the area will not destroy it.

"If you tossed a perch or any other temperate fish into the water here it would freeze in 25 to 30 seconds," says the sandy-haired scientist.

With stocking cap, plaid shirt, and tanned face he looks more like a professional outdoorsman than an Antarctic researcher.

The 15 species of fish that swim in the below-freezing (28 degree F.) waters here have developed a special form of protection, he explains. A natural kind of antifreeze flows through their veins. Some Arctic fish have developed a similar brand of protection.

"Only fish need antifreeze," says Dr. Devries as he fiddles with a rusty old gasoline engine attached to a winch. He uses this to haul in his quarter-inch stainless-steel fishing line.

Seals and penguins are warm-blooded and have developed a thick coating of blubber and other ways to insulate themselves from the cold. Octopus, sea anemone and related undersea creatures have as much salt in their bodies as seawater

does. This keeps them from freezing.

But fish cannot keep themselves warm this way -- their bodies will not tolerate the high salt concentrations of the invertebrates, and they must pass icy water over their gills to breathe.

That's why they have evolved a chemical similar to the antifreeze added to automobile radiators in winter. This chemical, by latching onto tiny ice crystals in the water and keeping them from growing to the point where they might damage the fish's cells, lowers the temperature at which the fish freeze.

Dr. Devries's gasoline engine starts with a cough and he begins reeling in the 1,200-foot

line.

Art Devries will tag this Antarctic cod, then return it to the icy water.

fishing line. A shadowy fish form becomes distinct in the clear water. It is an Antarctic cod (disostichus mawsoni), the largest of the antifreeze-equipped fishes.

In the past five years, Dr.

Devries has hooked over 60 of these large, primitive fishes. They average 60 pounds, but the largest he has caught is 100 pounds. They are one of the main food sources for the deep-diving seals.

Besides discovering his peculiar self-defrosting tem works, the fisherman is tagging the fish age-dating them before they return to the ice.

In this way he hopes to learn about their number, distribution.

According to the biologist here, the Antarctic waters teeming with life. The sea of marine life is as anywhere in the world, says John S. Oliver of the Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla, California.

But the extreme cold here makes it difficult a expensive to unravel the complexities of this icy world. Nevertheless, it is more about the ecology of the waters here than the fish themselves.

This is particularly important, says chief Antarctic scientist Duwayne Anderson, use the overfishing of off Antarctic shores. Even that man can damage rich marine life in this area.

Now protein-bungry ces are perfecting methods harvest krill, a small, like creature that is one basic foods for marine here. Many questions unanswered before the effort harvesting on other forms found only in this can be predicted, say Anderson.

To further this broad Dr. Devries hopes soon to drill through a hole bore 1,400 feet through the ice shelf, floating glacier the size of Spain.

An international team searchers, including Dr. es, hopes to see what, specialised creatures live dark, frigid waters bask permanent ice.

But this drilling project run into a number of ties. After reaching a depth of 1,000 feet in December, the walls of the hole began to collapse. As a result the \$2.3 project has been postponed till next season.

While waiting for his fishing hole, Dr. Devries continued casting his line through an opening in the ice, which breaks up every summer.

It isn't all work, however. As a sideline the scientist smokes and eats some cod, which has a rich, oily taste.

Every year Dr. Devries ends a big cod to the station at Vostok Station. The side it a real treat. But use Americans are such "feathers", this Antarctic cod has not caught on at MCM.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
© 1977 by Chicago Tribune

East's ace. East made the fine return of the jack of hearts, pinning declarer's ten. A careless declarer might decide that the...
NORTH
♠ K 8 3
♥ K Q 8
♦ K 8 2
♣ K 9 7
EAST
♠ 5 4
♥ A J 9 6 4 2
♦ 9 4
♣ A J 5
SOUTH
♠ A Q J 10 7 6
♥ 10 5
♦ A 10 5
♣ 8 3
bidding:
West North East
Pass 2NT Pass
Pass 4♣ Pass
winning lead: Seven of ♠.

tract hinged on the location of the ace of clubs, and, in due course, lead a club to the king. That would result in defeat. Others would rely on a 3-3 diamond split and go down.
South studied the hand closely. He realized that there was a danger that he might lose two club tricks and a diamond in addition to the ace of hearts. Declarer knew from the play to the first two tricks that East held heart length, and saw a possibility for a loser-on-loser play which would improve his prospects.

After drawing trumps in two rounds, declarer cashed the ace and king of diamonds. Now he led the eight of hearts from dummy. When East covered with the nine, declarer discarded his remaining diamond. East was left with a choice of losing leads. A heart would give declarer a ruff-and-sluff, while a club would be up to dummy's king.
Observe that this line would have succeeded even had diamonds split 3-3. East could exit with a diamond, but declarer would ruff and set up dummy's thirteenth diamond for a club discard. A trump to the eight would be the entry to the table.

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



DEAD STOP -- Nowadays a train driver with the German Federal Railways can sit in comfort at the controls of the world's most powerful locomotive, the 14,000-hp E 103. Yet he need only relax his pressure on the dead man's handle for a moment for the entire train to grind to a halt. To be more precise, the dead man's handle is now a button, but the function is the same. The driver has to push it every thirty seconds, just as he has to acknowledge each signal he passes within four seconds and so on. A moment's forgetfulness will bring the express screeching to a halt, passengers will be winded and the driver reprimanded.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16, 1977

Your Daily HOROSCOPE

from the CARROLL RIGHTER INSTITUTE

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day when considerable progress can be made by carefully following previously set plans. The evening is fine for pleasures with persons who have a great deal of influence in your community.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Be sure not to do anything that could irritate good friends during the day. Do some entertaining in a clever fashion tonight.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Do nothing during the day that could jeopardize the position of security which you have worked so hard to attain.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Do nothing about those new ideas you have until the evening when you can work on them successfully. Make new contacts of worth.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Await until the afternoon before you handle an important obligation since you can think more clearly then.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Concentrate on ways to have increased harmony with associates. The evening is fine for having light entertainment.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Your work load is heavy and there may be some delays, but persevere and much can be accomplished. Be poised.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Take time to enjoy yourself in spare time but don't be forceful with others. Sidestep one who may be jealous of you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Do nothing that could spoil the harmony you are now enjoying at home. Await until a better time to launch a new plan.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Take no risks in motion today or you could get into trouble. Reassure your mate of your true devotion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Take care you are not extravagant with money or you will soon regret it. Don't waste valuable time foolishly.

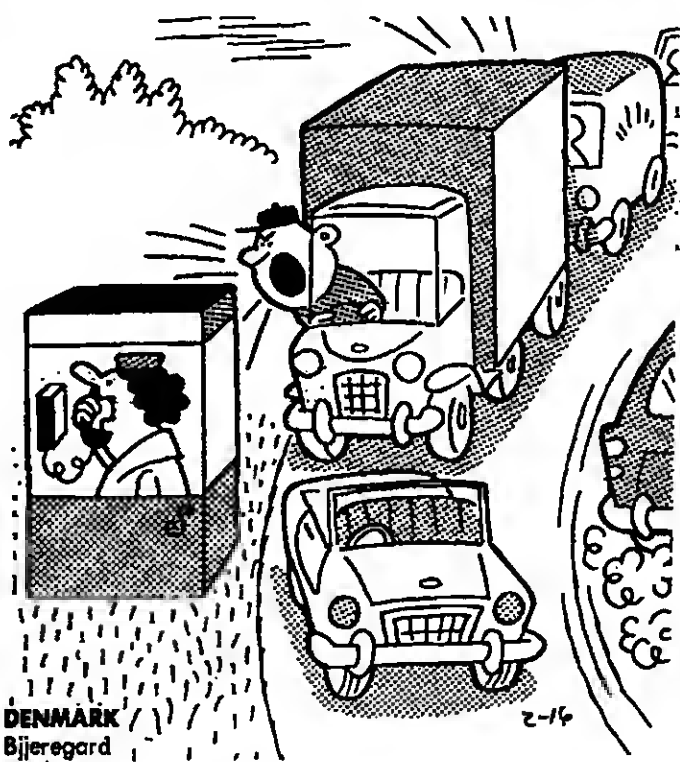
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You have new ideas that need more study before putting in operation. Make the evening a happy one with your family.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Listen to what an expert has to say about whatever is puzzling to you. The evening is fine for personal pleasures.



GRAFFITI
PSYCHIATRISTS WHO TELL YOU TO COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR KIDS ARE LOOKING FOR MORE BUSINESS

LAUGHS FROM EUROPE



JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Scramble these four Jumbles, a letter to each square, to form ordinary words.

LYJOL
DIGUL
NCOSH
OOMAB

IF YOU'RE THIS, YOU'RE NOT LIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE RAT RACE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

right surprise answer here: **YOU'RE NOT CERTAIN TO MAKE IT!**

(Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: SQUAW HEDGE EXCISE BUBBLE
Answer: You're not certain to make it!—A GUESS

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURES

THE PALLISERS:
EPISODE 20
Mr. Pallisers becomes Britain's prime minister and meets the queen. A young man son of a Dutch nobleman, tries to woo daughter of English noble but meets opposition from her father.

MYSTERY MOVIE: McCloud:
IT WAS THE FLIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS
Marshal McCloud once again brings trouble to his boss, who gets angry at him and is only pacified when McCloud solves the case.

MAKE THE JORDAN TIMES WORK FOR YOU

An advertisement in the Jordan Times will be seen by some 10,000 people in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon. Don't you have anything to say to them?

To spread your word, contact the Jordan Times advertising department by phone at 67171, or in person at the Jordan Times—Al Ra'i building, on University Road.

ROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

23. Large volume.
24. Six.
25. Sun god.
26. Italian river.
27. Musical work.
28. abstr.
29. Feminine name.
30. Exert force.
31. Repute.
32. Sings; abstr.
33. Discrimination.
34. Fashionable.
35. Abutting.
36. Bulrush.

DOWN

37. Greek underground.
38. Diminish.
39. Fraction.
40. Bifocal.
41. Gold in Heraldry.

SOLUTION OF YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

1. Bedouin.
2. Pretext.
3. Interfere.
4. Prior to.
5. Traze.
6. Spout speeches.
7. Ashern.
8. Provoked.
9. Weirder.
10. Mignonette.
11. Intense.
12. Struggle.
13. Murmur.
14. Irascibility.
15. Wood plant.
16. Group of eight.
17. Conquerer.
18. Yearly.
19. Morsure insert.
20. Fruit.
21. Feminine name.
22. Pitchers.
23. Indian group of South America.

OUT AND ABOUT

THE CROWN PATISSERIE
Hotel Jordan Intercontinental. Open daily for Executive Luncheon 1-3 p.m. Special International Buffet on Sundays. Dinner with live music from 7 p.m. to midnight. For reservation please call 41381 ext. 5.

QUICK MEAL
Restaurants for broasted chicken and light snacks. Take home, lunch or dinner. Jabbal Amman, First Circle. Tel. 21083. Jabbal Al Luweldeh, Newuz Circle. Tel. 30646. Jabbal Al Husseini, near Jerusalem Cinema. Tel. 21781. Also in Zarke and Irbid.

CHINESE RESTAURANT
First Chinese restaurant in Jordan. First Circle, Jabbal Amman, near the Alalyah School or CMS. Tel. 38968. Open daily from noon to 3:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to midnight. Also take home service—order by phone.

THE DIPLOMAT
First Circle, Jabbal Amman. Tel. 25592. Open from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. Restaurant, coffee-shop, snack bar and patisserie. Oriental and European specialties.

BLUES STEAKHOUSE
Firas Wings Hotel, Jabbal Al Luweldeh. Tel. 22103/4. Choice of THREE set menus daily for lunch, and 3 is carte. Open 12-3 p.m. and 7-12 p.m. Specialty: steaks.

For advertising in above columns contact "Sout Wa Soura" Tel. 38968. Open from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-6 p.m.

PEANUTS

THERE HE WAS ON THE SNOW-COVERED BARN ROOF!

ONE FALSE MOVE WOULD SEND HIM SLIDING DOWN TO HIS DEATH! WHAT A PRECIPITANT!

WHO WOULD RESCUE MY SWEET BABBOO?!

I'M NOT YOUR SWEET BABBOO!!!

THE FLINTSTONES

RITA THREW THE OUT AGAIN, FRED!

WELL, SHE WARNED YOU ABOUT YOUR DRINKING, SID...

MAYBE, IF I SENT HER A REAL NICE GIFT...

SOMETHING TO MAKE HER THINK ABOUT ME...

HOW ABOUT A 'POTTED PLANT'?

MUTT AND JEFF

IT'S THREE A.M.—NITE, MUTT, SEE YOU IN THE MORNING!

SH-H—QUIET! IF THE WIFE HEARS US SHE'LL CROWN ME!

BANG!

POW!

OH! SO IT'S YOU!

OH MUTT! I SEE SHE WAS WAITING UP FOR YOU, EH?

NO, SHE DIDN'T! SHE REARRANGED THE FURNITURE!

Rhodesian rightwingers call on Smith to quit

SALISBURY, Feb. 15 (AFP). — The rightwing Rhodesian National Party today published a call for Premier Ian Smith's resignation "in the name of God, honour and Rhodesia."

The call published in the Rhodesian Herald newspaper was accompanied by a strong attack on the government.

The RNP charged that Mr. Smith's plan for an internal settlement with black moderates could result in "a surrender to the terrorist forces within two years." The Rhodesian Herald also featured an open attack from a Bulawayo-based white group calling itself the September Declaration, which urged Mr. Smith to spell out his plans for the country's future.

The group called on Mr. Smith to give more details of his internal settlement plan. Both demands coincide with the resumption of the current parliamentary sitting which is expected to witness the appearance of several amendments to Rhodesia's race laws.

But just how far Mr. Smith and his government intend moving towards abolishing racial discrimination remains unknown. The odds are against a total repeal of the race laws. Mr. Smith is expected instead to keep key issues up his sleeve as bargaining points in any internal negotiations.

On at least two recent occasions in sessions with the press, Mr. Smith has indicated that he is not ready to reveal his internal settlement proposals.

From what Mr. Smith has said, it is clear that he still has a long way to go before he can begin making public pronouncements on his intentions.

The key to any internal settlement is involving a section

of the nationalist movement, notably Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC). The UANC wants elections among the country's blacks to produce an undisputed leader, believing that the bishop would win handsomely.

Mr. Smith admits to planning a test of black opinion but at this stage is undecided on how to go about it.

Resolving the black leadership issue would partly clear the way for internal negotiations. Observers here agree that both sides have to avoid compromising themselves. And this is where Mr. Smith's main problem lies.

Observers also agree that an internal settlement achieved without at least the UANC's participation would be worthless.

Mr. Smith also admits to holding lightly on the reins of external settlement negotiations involving the American and British governments, a move designed to seek the best from both options.

The current signs are that the resumed parliamentary session will be short and not as dramatic as many people believe. In the past Mr. Smith avoided delicate negotiations while parliament was sitting, to avoid being questioned at length by black politicians.

The current internal discussions on the Rhodesian question involving South Africa, America and Britain complicate the issue and are again something Mr. Smith would not wish to be questioned on in the public forum afforded by a parliamentary sitting.

For these reasons the parliamentary sitting is not expected to last more than a few weeks. It is likely to set the tone of the settlement moves, but not to reveal the whole score.

Zuheir Muhsen dismisses idea of Palestinian government

KUWAIT, Feb. 15 (R). — A pro-Syrian Palestinian common-law leader said in an interview published here today that the Palestinians were not contemplating the establishment of a government-in-exile at present.

Mr. Zuheir Muhsen, head of the Soqo commando group and of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) Military Department, said such a government was merely an idea long advocated by Egyptian President Anwar Sadat.

Some reports had suggested that the Palestinians might approve the formation of a government-in-exile at a meeting in Cairo next month of the Palestine National Council (PNC), their parliament-in-exile.

Mr. Muhsen told the Kuwait newspaper Al Rai Al Aam that the proceedings of the PNC, due to open on March 12, would include the election of a new PLO Executive Committee.

He said the Palestinians were not convinced that a government-in-exile would be useful.

"We also believe it is in our interest to maintain the revolutionary momentum and in the need for remaining unrestricted by a state or government structure," Mr. Muhsen said.

PLO denies reports of contacts with Israelis in Europe

NICOSIA, Feb. 15 (AFP). — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) today denied recent press reports of contacts in Europe between it and Israeli organisations.

"All these reports are completely groundless," Abu Al Lutf, head of the PLO Policy Department said in a statement issued by the PLO office in Cyprus.

The only PLO representative in Paris was Mr. Ezzeddin Kalai and he has never had contacts with "Israeli Zionist parties," the statement said. (A group of Israeli "dove" Members of Parliament recently announced that they met with an unnamed representative of the PLO in Paris.)

The statement said Mr. Ghazi Huseini, PLO representative in Vienna, had contacted heads of European Socialist parties to try to persuade them to alter their attitude towards "the just struggle of the Palestinian people," the statement said.

But Abu Al Lutf denied that Mr. Kalai has asked Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky's mediation between Palestinians and Israelis.

Australian gunman repeats kidnap attempt

SALE, Australia, Feb. 15 (R). — A gunman who abducted nine schoolchildren, a teacher, four lorry drivers and two women holidaymakers in a 21-hour rampage through Bush country was flown to Melbourne in handcuffs today.

Mr. Edwin John Eastwood, a convicted child kidnapper who hunked out of jail two months ago, was charged with 16 counts of kidnapping and three of shooting during a dramatic chase involving a crash and gun battle with police. He was remanded in custody.

Mr. Eastwood appeared to be trying a carbo copy of his 1972 kidnapping when, with a colleague, he abducted a school teacher and six children in an attempt to obtain a million dollar (£636,000) ransom.

This time he was caught following a high-speed 32-km. cross-country car chase when a police marksman punctured one of his tyres. Emerging from the vehicle firing his sawn-off 12 rifle, he was brought down by a shot in the thigh.

None of his 16 victims suffered any physical injuries though they were very frightened. "It's a miracle there wasn't a major tragedy," a police spokesman said.

The drama began at 11 a.m. local time yesterday when Mr. Eastwood marched into the solitary classroom of the village primary school at Wooreen, 125 kms. southeast of Melbourne, and ordered the teacher and pupils into the playground.

Crosland still dangerously ill

LONDON, Feb. 15 (AFP). — British Foreign Secretary Anthony Crosland who suffered a stroke at his home on Sunday was said today to be still dangerously ill and there was no change in his condition. A Foreign Office spokesman said Mr. Crosland, who is 58, was still undergoing treatment at the Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. A hospital spokesman said the minister was under "strict medical observation and continuing nursing care."

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Non-oil sources account for one-third of Iran's revenue

TEHRAN, Feb. 15 (R). — Nearly a third of the revenue for Iran's budget this year will come from sources other than oil, Minister of State for Budget and Planning, Dr. Abdul-Majid Majidi said today. The minister, who presents the budget on Sunday, said Iran was

taking a major step away from its dependence on income from oil, according to the official Radio Iran. Prime Minister Amir Abbas Hoveyda was reported last week to have told a business conference that the budget for 1977-78 would show a five per cent deficit.

Bahrain's banking business records four-fold growth

BAHRAIN, Feb. 15 (R). — Bahrain's nascent offshore banking business grew by \$125 billion to \$625 billion in the last quarter of last year of which funds originating in the Arab World accounted for 40 per cent of the total according to Bahrain Monetary Agency Director Alan Moore.

Mr. Moore said the growth of Arab fund, of forward foreign exchange operations and of medium-term business were major indications of the success of the tax-free offshore banking centre in the Gulf island-state.

He said that 30 banks reporting at the end of the first full year of operation had shown that 70 per cent of their funds were in United States dollars, 20 per cent in regional currencies and the remaining 10 per cent in European currencies.

Arab assets and funds balanced at \$2.5 billion at the end of December compared with \$2 billion in Arab funds at the end of September and loans going to the Arab World of only \$1.5 billion, he added.

The money was still mainly up to six months but the funds of more than six months had trebled in the quarter to \$1.5 billion, he said.

Another indication of the growth of the market was the growth of forward foreign exchange operations which totalled the equivalent of \$540 million at the end of the year compared with \$200 million on Sept. 30, Mr. Moore said.

WALL STREET REPORT

A continuing technical rally brought the stock exchange to another good advance Tuesday as the industrial average gained almost 6 points in fairly active trading. This average has now risen about 13 points in two days following six straight weeks of steady decline.

Wall Street analysts think that investors are now ready to stage a cautious comeback on the market as bargain hunters are looking for low priced blue chip and glamour stocks which have come under pressure during the past few weeks.

Gainers led losers at the close by a 837 to 602 margin as most groups of shares closed on a mixed to higher tone. Chemical, paper and steel issues were generally strong, along with oil, auto, tyre and aluminium shares.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 944.32, a gain of 5.99 points. Transport at 224.33, a gain of 0.59; utilities at 105.83, a loss of 0.06. 11,620,000 shares changed hands of which 3,850,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Shares staged a strong rally Tuesday as buyers, taking the view that the sharp deterioration in January's trade figures was exceptional, returned to profit from the low levels of the quotations. As a result, two thirds of yesterday's losses were recouped.

Glits gained up to one point among long dated issues. Industrials meanwhile rose between four and ten pence with leaders such as ICI, Tube Investment, Bescam, Unilever, Guest Keen and Glaxo. At the close, the Financial Times index was up 9.3 points at 376.1.

Oils and shares, such as Thomson, having North Sea interests, were equally buoyant. Banks, taking the hint from Lloyds whose results are due out on Friday, were buoyant and a steady demand was seen for insurances and properties. Golds went against the trend, easing slightly in line with the bullion price. Tins were steady.

Price of gold closed in London Tuesday at 136.45.

U.S. firms challenge slump in Wall Street prices by deliberate raise in dividends

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (AFP). — Many U.S. firms are deliberately raising dividends in a "counter-attack" on falling Wall Street prices, according to financial analysts here.

Standard and Poor estimates that in January a total of 264 companies raised quarterly dividends as compared with 204 a year earlier. The new total is the highest since the 1950s it said. Already in December 252 firms raised dividends against 161 a year earlier.

Some of the increases are quite substantial: Levi Strauss 60 per cent, Bristol Myers 22 per cent, Owen Owens Illinois 53 cents against 47, Rockwell International 55 cents against 50.

Analysts believe that companies are worried over the prudence displayed by investors. After months of stagnation on Wall Street, the public has lost hope of quick gains and is looking for higher dividends, it is thought.

This theory seems true in

certain specific cases. Office equipment firms like Digital Equipment and Data Corporation used to be favourites with the public even with little or no dividend, but they have been under pressure for the past few weeks.

Similarly, most of the pharmaceutical shares have lost out. Fourteen of the main shares in this category have dropped an overall 25 per cent from their 1976 peak.

Another set of experts at Becker Securities note that between April and December last year, an index of so-called growth shares paying low dividends sagged 15 per cent. In the same period an index of high dividend shares rose 13 per cent.

As the experts point out, in a period of moderate inflation, dividends are found to be more attractive.

There is a general sentiment on Wall Street at the moment that this factor, combined with a sluggish market, should lead to higher dividends all round.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

MANILA, Feb. 15 (AFP). — Asia will avoid massive starvation only through a doubling of rice production within one generation, participants at a nine-nation food crisis workshop said today. President Saburo Okita of Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, who chaired the three-day meeting, pointed out that excluding Japan and China, only two per cent of Asia's 80 million hectares of rice land was adequately irrigated. About 33 per cent is inadequately irrigated and another 65 per cent depends upon rainfall. Mr. Okita said. Without adequate irrigation, modern high-yielding varieties of rice have limited promise, he added.

AMMAN, Feb. 15 (R). — Finance ministers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Qatar and Egypt met in Riyadh yesterday to discuss how best their countries could support Egypt's tottering economy. Riyadh Radio reported.

TAIPEI, Feb. 15 (R). — The 21,616-ton Kuwaiti oil tanker Borag finally sank today, eight days after hitting a reef three miles north of Keelung Harbour, but oil spilling from it continued to pose serious problems. A spokesman for the state-owned electric power company nearby said their two power plants had to cut generation for the second time in a week today because of huge oil slicks moving towards their water intakes. The plants use sea water for their cooling systems.

MANILA, Feb. 15 (AFP). — The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will hold a special foreign ministers meeting in Manila on Feb. 24 to commemorate the anniversary of the first ASEAN summit conference, the Foreign Office announced today. The five-nation summit meeting, held in Bali, Indonesia, in February 1976, resulted in the signing of an ASEAN Declaration of Concord, a treaty of amity and cooperation, and an agreement establishing an ASEAN Secretariat. Today's announcement said the Manila meeting will review the progress achieved since the Bali conference, particularly in the field of economic cooperation. Among the matters expected to be discussed is economic cooperation between ASEAN states and Japan.

TEHRAN, Feb. 15 (R). — The Premier of the Australian State of Queensland Mr. Johannes Bjelke-Petersen, arrived here today on the first leg of an 11-day tour of the Gulf to explore export markets for Queensland products. During his three-day stay here the premier will have talks with the Shah and Iranian Minister of Mines and Industries Farrokh Najmabadi.

Scientists revise Richter scale of quake measurement

PASADENA, California, Feb. 15 (AFP). — Scientists at the California Institute of Technology yesterday revised the Richter scale for measuring the intensity of earth tremors, for the first time since it was formulated in 1935.

More exact recording equipment and several years of studying the strength and consequences of earthquakes have forced them to bring the scale up to date.

Several of history's major earthquakes have been re-examined and found to be weaker or stronger than they appeared at the time.

For example the 1960 quake in Chile gave out 62 times more energy than was believed, but

the one that destroyed San Francisco in 1906, estimated at 8.2 on the Richter scale, should have been 7.9. No tremors have so far been recorded above 8.9, but the institute experts say the Chile earthquake should have been 9.5 and another in Alaska in 1964 reached 9.2.

The tremor which devastated a Chinese province last year was reported to have measured eight on the scale.

The Richter scale measures the movements of the earth's crust in the same way as a seismograph. Each increase of one point represents a magnitude, 10 times greater.

A tremor of intensity 7.5 is thus 10 times stronger than one of 6.5.

WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Feb. 15 (R). — The Arabic East Jerusalem daily, Al Fajr, appeared today for the first time in three months after sweeping changes in its staff. The new editor, Mr. Mahmud Al Said, said in a front-page editorial that the paper "will no longer follow the Communist position but will adhere strictly to the Palestinian line — and for us this is represented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)."

ADDIS ABABA, Feb. 15 (R). — Senegalese Foreign Minister Assane Seck is in Addis Ababa following a visit to Khartoum for what informed sources indicated was a mediation effort in the dispute between Ethiopia and the Sudan. Mr. Seck, who arrived here on Sunday following a two-day visit to the Sudanese capital, met the new Ethiopian head of state Lieut. Col. Mengistu Haile-Mariam yesterday to deliver a special message from Senegalese President Leopold Sedar Senghor.

MOSCOW, Feb. 15 (R). U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance have cabled Soviet leaders thanking them for messages of good wishes sent to mark their assumption of office. Tass news agency reported today. President Carter told Soviet President Nikolai Podgorniy the U.S. would go on devoting its efforts to achieving universal peace and stronger international cooperation, Tass said.

BELGRADE, Feb. 15 (R). — President Tito yesterday proposed one of his old partisan comrades to take over as prime minister in succession to Mr. Dzemal Bijedic, killed in an air crash last month, the official Tanjug News Agency reported. The agency said that Mr. Veselin Djuranovic, who joined the Partisans in 1941 as a 16-year-old schoolboy, was the unanimous choice of the Yugoslav leader and the eight other members of the collective state presidency.

NAIROBI, Kenya, Feb. 15 (AFP). — Ugandan President Idi Amin disclosed yesterday that he had uncovered a plot to overthrow him last month, and implicated Ugandan Bishop Yona Okoti. Radio Uganda, monitored here, said Field Marshal Amin told the Archbishop of Uganda Juvani Luvum yesterday that 12 boxes of arms, including grenades and rifles, were found at the bishop's home. Two security men were killed in the search for weapons, the radio added. It said the plot had been timed to coincide with last month's celebrations marking Field Marshal Amin's overthrow of Mr. Milton Obote's regime six years ago.

CAIRO, Feb. 15 (R). — The Libyan Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) today decided to deprive Maj. Omar Al Meheshi of his Libyan nationality, the Egyptian Middle East News Agency reported from Tripoli today. Maj. Meheshi, a former member of the RCC has been living in exile in Egypt for more than a year following differences with Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qaddafi including an alleged plot against Qaddafi in 1975.

De Guiringaud begins Arab tour today

PARIS, Feb. 15 (R). — France tomorrow joins the United States in the drive to find peace in the Middle East when Foreign Minister Louis de Guiringaud embarks on a tour of four key Arab capitals. M. Guiringaud's visit to Beirut, Damascus, Amman and Cairo follows hard on the heels of new U.S. Secretary of

State Cyrus Vance, who began his Middle East peace mission today.

The visit also comes soon after similar tours by U.N. Secretary General Dr. Kurt Waldheim and West German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher.

Despite Israel's opposition, M. de Guiringaud will try to

find out what role, if any, France can play in bringing the parties together, officials here said today. He will also sound out the possibility of securing France a seat in the later stages of the Geneva peace conference.

France sees 1977 as the year of peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours and is being pressed by the Arab countries to play an active part in hastening a settlement of the conflict, they added.

The French government contends that Israel should withdraw from Arab territories occupied during the 1967 war and favours the creation of a Palestinian Arab state. But the French insist on Arab recognition of the existence of the state of Israel with internationally guaranteed borders.

M. de Guiringaud will find out how the Arab leaders hope to overcome difficulties over the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in the Geneva conference and their relations with the future Palestine state, officials said. He will also see how the Arab countries envisage co-existence with Israel, they added.

The French minister will also discuss economic and technological cooperation between France and the Arab countries. He is visiting.

He will return to the Middle East next month for a visit to Israel, scheduled to take place on March 30 and 31.

Jail sentences passed on 176 "leftists" in Morocco

CASABLANCA, Feb. 15 (R). — A court here imposed jail sentences today on 176 "leftists" for plotting to overthrow King Hassan and establish a "people's republic" in Morocco.

It sentenced 44 of them to jail for life.

Only five of those who received life terms were in court for the six-week trial. The 39 others were tried in their absence.

Prison terms from five to 30 years were imposed on 132 people. In three cases these were suspended sentences.

The prisoners chanted revolutionary songs as guards led them away to the cells at the end of an all-night courtroom session lasting nine hours, when verdicts were read.

Convictions were on counts

"of plotting against the government, incitement to civil war, forming secret organisations and forging official documents."

Three women on trial were among those who drew sentences of only five years.

The court had heard that the conspirators meant to "propagate Marxist-Leninist principles among students and workers."

Later, a military organisation called "Mobile Red Brigades" was planned to cause violent revolution and sweep on to power.

Documents and material to make bombs had been found. Defence lawyers had said during the trial they could not record proper pleas because their clients had been ordered out of the court for making disturbances.

After meeting Castro

U.S. congressman: Contacts with Cuba may reopen shortly

HAVANA, Feb. 15 (R). — U.S. Congressman Jonathan Bingham, who met President Fidel Castro at the weekend, said contacts could soon be reopened between the United States and Cuba.

Mr. Bingham, a Democrat

who chairs the House Subcommittee on International Trade, added that a partial lifting of the U.S. embargo on trade and tourism links with Cuba could open the way to serious discussions.

He told reporters at his hotel here yesterday: "I see no reason why direct contacts could not be arranged on the subject of fisheries and cultural and sports exchanges."

He declined to reveal details of his talks with Dr. Castro and Foreign Affairs Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez before he reports to President Jimmy Carter and Secretary of State Cyrus Vance.

He said: "The first step in the matter of serious discussions should be the removal, at least partial, of the embargo. If this were done, I think the way would be open to a variety of discussions."

Asked what could be the first subject to be discussed since

the U.S. and Cuba broke off relations 16 years ago, Mr. Bingham said fisheries could be discussed immediately and fruitfully without preconditions.

Mr. Bingham, the first Congressman to visit the island since Mr. Carter took over, said he hoped the administrator would not renew a ban on U.S. tourism in Cuba when it expires on March 15.

Among the issues he discussed with the Cuban leader was possible renegotiation of the U.S.-Cuban anti-hijacking pact called off by Dr. Castro and due to expire on April 15. Mr. Bingham said he did not think re-negotiation was possible by that date. Dr. Castro demanded "effective guarantees" that there would be no attacks on Cuba by anti-Castro groups based on the U.S. mainland and set the end of the trade embargo as a precondition for re-negotiation.

China expert thinks Mme. Mao will spend her life in prison

HONG KONG, Feb. 15 (R). — China expert Mrs. Han Suyin, just back from a 10-week tour of the mainland, said yesterday that she thought Chairman Mao Tse-tung's disgraced widow would spend the rest of her life behind bars.

The famous novelist and biographer of Chairman Mao told a public meeting she did not believe that the late chairman's widow, Chiang Ching, would be executed for allegedly trying to seize power.

She discounted reports that there would be a public trial of Madame Mao and three other purged radicals in the so-called "gang of four" accused of seeking to overthrow the current Peking leaders.

"They would be torn to pieces in the street," the novelist told her audience. "I don't think they will be killed. I think they will end their lives in detention."

Mrs. Han Suyin denounced Madame Mao as "an inveterate

rate double-faced liar" and "megalomaniac who needed a psychiatrist."

At the same time she predicted that former Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping would soon be rehabilitated by the Chinese government. Describing him as a very able but "quarrelsome little man," she said: "I am quite sure we will see Teng doing a useful function in a short period of time."

Mr. Teng, once widely expected to succeed Premier Chou En-lai, was removed from power last April in a campaign said to have been inspired by the now-purged radicals.

Mrs. Han Suyin said her overall impression of China today was a great deal of relaxation and happiness among the people.

She said there was a frankness and openness not seen in some years, and the popularity of the new Peking leadership was undeniable.

Dissident Sakharov applauds Carter's stand on his behalf but warns against any retreat

New York, Feb. 15 (R). — Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov said in an interview broadcast here that he admired the Carter administration's stand on behalf of himself and other dissidents in his country.

But Mr. Sakharov warned in the interview, recorded in Moscow by the CBS television network, that "any hesitancy or partial retreat would give the Kremlin the impression that the new administration would succumb to blackmail and repression."

His comments delivered in Russian, were paraphrased by CBS correspondent Bernard Redmont.

"Sakharov says the bold moral position adopted by the new president of the United States arouses his hope and respect," Mr. Redmont reported.

But he added that Mr. Sakharov believed that any sign of weakness in Washington would affect every aspect of East-West relations, including disarmament negotiations.

Last month the U.S. State Department strongly criticised the Soviet Union for what it called attempts by officials

there to intimidate Mr. Sakharov, winner of the 1975 Nobel Peace Prize.

The correspondent said Mr. Sakharov reiterated charges that freedom of thought, information, movement and religion was being violated in the Soviet Union.

"He denounces illegal trial psychiatric repression, torture in prison camps, constant persecution of people who believe in God, and what he says growing anti-Semitism," Redmont said.

According to the correspondent, Mr. Sakharov said that repression of dissidents in the Soviet Union had increased recently.

Mr. Redmont said that if Soviet authorities wanted to still all dissidents before this summer's second-stage European Security Conference in Brussels.

Mr. Sakharov said that the Soviet Union wanted to ensure that "not one voice will speak out from within the country" in violation of the Helsinki agreement, "Mr. Redmont added.

محور اقتصادي